



Oak Bluffs Police Department

Erik G. Blake
Chief of Police

November 25, 2003

Madame Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: WT 02-55 Improving Public Safety Communications in the 800 MHz Band

Dear Madame Secretary,

At the recent International Association of Chiefs of Police Annual Conference, I had the opportunity to learn a good deal about the issue of 800 MHz interference and how it is impacting police departments around the country. The fact that first responder communications is so harmfully compromised by cell phone use and other commercial communication should be of national concern.

Thankfully, a solution to this dangerous problem exists. I write today to express my very strong support for the Consensus Plan to realign the 800 MHz spectrum to ensure reliable communications for public safety officials.

Today's world is one in which communications gets easier, cheaper and more effective every day. The ability to always communicate seamlessly – through mobile email, digital pagers and cell phones – is taken for granted. Which is why so many people would find it hard to believe that the individuals who are charged with the duty of protecting them – fire, police and emergency services personnel – don't have the capabilities they need to guarantee clear and dependable communications.

The Consensus Plan is the only proposal before the Commission that solves the problem of interference rather than just correcting it after the fact. Representatives from the public safety community, such as the IACP, support this Plan because it has public safety's

priorities in mind – elimination of interference, additional spectrum, and private funding (imposing no cost onto public safety).

I urge the Commission to take this problem seriously and implement the only true solution, the Consensus Plan. Please give first responders the spectrum they need to get their job done right.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Chief Erik Blake
Oak Bluffs Police Department
— Ocean Ave
Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts 02557

CC:

Chairman Powell
Commissioner Abernathy
Commissioner Adelstein
Commissioner Copps
Commissioner Martin

Representative William Delahunt
146 Main Street
Hyannis, MA 02601

Senator Edward M. Kennedy
240 JFK Building
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Senator John Kerry
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